

**CAAB Public Meeting  
June 28, 2005  
JFK Community Room**

Leslie Fraidstern – Be strong in negotiations, need monitor provisions and a monitoring committee, convert to satellite as an alternative. City should have an open hearing on the proposed contract prior to signing. See written comments submitted to record.

John Martine, producer – Thank you to Comcast and Jeff for studio access and support of his work.

Patricia Williams – Need affordable cable channels for seniors, need senior discounts, need better programming packages/options. Too many commercials. Need more children's programming.

Glafyra Ennis-Yentsch – Access TV is important to democracy and free speech, political and cultural expression and community decision-making. Healthy, diverse access TV is important is also good public relations for cable company. Media-One (now Comcast) stopped producing fitness programs in Northampton. She is now at Easthampton Cable Access TV producing fitness and council on aging programs. Suggests we contact DTE cable division staff or contact Easthampton Cable Access Corp.

Darien Gardner – Wants Northampton to hire a consultant to advise and assist the City in negotiations.

Stevie Converse – Why is the City not rectifying the breach of current contract? She wants this to be corrected now with a good faith effort by Comcast – specifically: studio in disrepair, cameras out of synch, return to full-time staffing. Suggests we research and compare other cable companies. Which City buildings are currently setup with I-Net service. Consider adding Florence Community Center, Center for the Arts. She would like to see community spaces connected as well.

Clodagh Kosior – New Supreme Court ruling recently allows for cable control of ISP's. Wants Democracy Now on at more accessible times in the evening. Free Speech TV should be aired. Need to reach people who cannot attend meetings.

Russell Newman – BrandX Supreme Court ruling prevents open access – no need to allow other providers use of cable lines. New cable broadband services need not be considered common carriers. Needs in new contract:

- Protect against anti-competitive maneuvers – i.e. obtain a percent of bandwidth, rules for net neutrality on city network (See Montgomery County, MD)
- Cable companies have done property swaps to cluster communities they serve in one area resulting in crowding out of public access channels and squeezing independent producers. Need several access channels over community bandwidth to offer producer options.
- Be thorough and deliberate with contract audit and needs assessment.
- See website resources: [www.freepress.net](http://www.freepress.net) and [www.democraticmedia.org](http://www.democraticmedia.org)

- State legislation vs. local franchising is being pushed by telephone companies entering the cable market usually resulting in substandard contracts.
- VT & CT have statewide and progressive model legislation.

Jim Ault, producer – Bring in educational institutions for programming. Bring in local talent/producer expertise into programming.

Barbara Golden – After last hearing left a message for Jeff asking for Democracy Now to be aired at other times. No response. Used to be a satellite dish at the studio – loss prevents programming ease. Another option is to tape the show for repeat airing. What about the automated equipment to allow for playback that is no longer in the studio? Jim McKeever says the satellite was not part of the access studio equipment but Comcast allowed us to use it.

Joel Saxe – Ask Comcast to ask commercial programmers to tithe 10% to independent producers. Media democracy, negotiate regionally, .... See submitted written notes.

Darien Gardner – A shorter contract is in the City's interest.

John Norton – A one-year contract would have had more control during cable company transfers.

Paul Nastrangelo – Bargain with subscriber leverage. Allow subscribers as a group to negotiate collectively along with the Mayor.

Sally Atkinson – Stand our ground to get more information and better cable programs. Don't hurry the process.

Notes Prepared By:

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Mayor's Office

CAAB Members Present: Leigh Bailey, Emikan Sudan, Robin Coolbeth, Teri Morris,.

Also Present: Jim McKeever, CAAB Advisor and former Chair; Teri Anderson, CAAB Staff; and Steve Fitzgibbons, Comcast